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Mrs. [illegible] Bennink

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Nellie Hoek Bennink

N E L L I E H O E K B E N N I N K.

Nellie Hoek was born in the Netherlands, on the Island of Texel, January 28, 1845. She was the daughter of John and Martha Hoek, who were the parents of seven children. Walter, Johanna, Jennie, Jacob, Nellie, Agnes and Leonard.

Mr. Hoek supervised the construction of dykes and canals on the Island of Texel, and when not busy at this occupation, assisted on the farm of Paulus Den Bleyker a wealthy farmer. Mr. Den Bleyker and Mr. Hoek were very close friends and Mr. Den Bleyker depended a great deal upon the advise of Mr. Hoek.

For a number of years Mr. Hoek lived a contented life performing his duties, but later was seized with a strong desire to leave his native land and set sail for America, and often tried to induce Mr. Den Bleyker to sell his farm, that together they might cross the ocean, but Mr. Den Bleyker being a very prosperous farmer and an influential man in his community was reluctant to go. Upon one occasion Mr. Hoek remarked to him, that he thought the time would come, when Mr. Den Bleyker would come to him and say he was ready to go to America. The following year a heavy storm of hail and wind swept over the small island of Texel, destroying all of the crops. Mr. Den Bleyker being

very much discouraged, did come to Mr. Hoek and said, "If you want to dispose of your property, I am ready to go to America."

In a short time everything was in readiness, and on August 14, 1850 they set out with a group of thirty-six people, afterwards known as the "Den Bleyker Party", for an eager voyage to America, the land of plenty. The voyage took forty-seven days of storms, terror and misgivings. They arrived in Amsterdam a very short time before the boat was to leave and Mrs. Hoek thinking that she might not be able to find any flat-irons in America, ran back to purchase some. When she returned she saw the boat slowly leaving the harbor. She ran along the shore frantically waving to her family, who too, were very much excited for fear she was being left behind, but when the pilot learned what all the excitement was about, he steered the ship back into the harbor, the gang plank was lowered, and soon Mrs. Hoek was safely aboard and all were happy to be on their way.

Little did they realize the hardships that were before them. After the long, tedious voyage on the ocean they arrived at New York, and remained on the boat for three days for inspection. Upon leaving the boat the party boarded a Michigan Central train and started for Kalamazoo, their future home, where

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they arrived on October 1, 1850.

Their first disappointment was that they did not see their friends, who had come before them. They had no idea that America was so large.

Within two days after their arrival in Kalamazoo many of the party were taken with an illness that was pronounced cholera, and the newly arrived families were quarantined in a rough pine structure in the woods North of town. Ten days after the epidemic broke out, Mr. Hoek and three of their children had died. In his dying moments Mr. Hoek said to his wife, "My desire had always been, if I could but bring my family to America". The bodies of the four were buried in the old cemetery, now, South Westnedge Avenue Park, and have never been removed to another burial ground.

Those were trying days for Mrs. Hoek who had been left a widow with four children, the oldest fourteen and the youngest one only five and a half years of age, in a strange land, amongst strange people and penniless. Little wonder that she lost heart, and became broken in health.

After the quarantine was lifted, Paulus Den Bleyker, who at the bedside of Mr. Hoek had promised to take care of his family, built a shanty for them, on his farm. It was made of green wood and the cracks

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were so wide it was impossible to keep out the cold. It stood two feet high from the ground and had no foundation. Walter the oldest son worked on the Den Bleyker farm from five o'clock in the morning until eight or nine o'clock in the evening. This left no time for him to chop wood for the family so the stove door had to be left open and one end of the little green sapling rested on a chair and was shoved into the stove as it would burn.

At the end of two years Mr. Den Bleyker purchased a tract of land in Holland, Michigan, then known as "The Colony". At this location he erected a saw mill and at the completion of same, moved with his family and Mrs. Hoek and her family to "The Colony". However he did not like it there, so decided to move back to Kalamazoo after three months. His desire was that Mrs. Hoek with her family remain in order that Walter might continue to work in the mill but Mrs. Hoek wanted to go back to Kalamazoo also, and reluctantly Mr. Den Bleyker gave his consent.

The trip was made in a bob-sleigh and a lumber wagon. The roads were very slushy and muddy although it was in December. The Den Bleykers and Mrs. Hoek with their younger children took the lead in the bob-sleigh and the older children rode in the lumber wagon on which the furniture was loaded. The

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parents were somewhat concerned about the welfare of the children, and often turned to see if they were coming, until finally they lost sight of them. It was evening when they arrived in Allegan and found lodging in a private home, expecting the rest of the family to arrive soon, thinking they had only slowed down a bit. But as time passed on they grew more anxious about them. For two nights and a day, on until noon of the next day, which was New Year's Day, they waited in anxiety. Upon their arrival they soon explained how the wagon had broken down and it took some time before they located some one who could repair it.

They again started out and eventually reached Kalamazoo, and all were glad to be safely back on the farm once more. Walter continued his work as a farm hand, and by this time, Jacob was old enough to feed the chickens and help plant potatoes. Later Walter learned the trade of wagon-making in the employ of the D. Burrell and Son Wagon Works, which was located on the corner of Main and Park Streets, where the Merchants Publishing Co., later erected a new building. Jacob learned the carpenter trade and helped to build the first paper mill erected here. In later years, he became superintendent of construction for the Bryant Paper Mills.

Johanna who was twelve years of age, when the family arrived in Kalamazoo started almost immediately to go out sewing by the day, receiving ten cents a day for her work. Beside this she took full charge of the house work at home, and waited on her sick mother. She died at the age of eighteen.

After the death of Johanna the home duties fell upon Nellie who was only eleven years of age. She too, took full charge, working from early morning until late at night. Nellie attended school in a little school house on South Street where the Elk's Temple now stands. Miss Carrie Hicks was her teacher. When Nellie was twelve years old, she made herself a dress which was all done by hand as there were no sewing machines at that time. She often assisted their friends with their sewing.

So the family struggled along on the small wages the two boys received, until after a few years of prosperity for Mr. Den Bleyker, he presented Mrs. Hoek with $1000.00 and to each of the children he gave $1000.00. This formed a nucleus for savings, and financial problems became somewhat easier. At that time the banks were paying 10% interest.

For fifteen years Nellie was faithful in her duties in the home, with little time for social activities. The family had a great many friends and

Nellie found pleasure in entertaining them when they called at their home.

By this time the children had all grown into manhood and womanhood. Walter had married, and two years later Jacob also married. This left Nellie and her mother alone but not for a very long period. Nellie too, was seriously considering matrimony and six months after Jacob's marriage she spoke her vows. On November 23, 1870 she was married to Henry Bennink, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman H. Bennink. He had arrived in Kalamazoo from the Netherlands about two years before his marriage to Nellie Hoek and was a blacksmith by trade. Mr. and Mrs. Bennink lived at the home of Mrs. Hoek in order that Mrs. Bennink might continue to care for her mother.

Eight children were born to them, six of whom are still living. They are respectively, Mrs. George Bilkert, Mrs. William H. Van Peenan, Mr. Herman H. Bennink, Mrs. Isaac Bloem, Mrs. Jack D. Trowbridge and the Reverend John E. Bennink.

In the early days wages were very small and it wasquite a struggle for Mr. and Mrs. Bennink to provide their family with the necessities of life, but by faithful co-operation and economic planning they soon became more prosperous.

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Mr. and Mrs. Bennink had the pleasure of living together fifty-four and one-half years. On November 23, 1920, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Mr. Bennink passed away on May 23, 1924. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Bennink made her home with her daughters. She kept up her own home, doing her own housework until she was seventy-eight years of age. On January 28, 1935, she celebrated her ninetieth birthday at which time all of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren were present, with the exception of two of her great grandchildren who were in India. During the World War she knit socks and sweaters for the Red Cross besides doing her own housework.

Mrs. Bennink remained very active until a short time before her death. Her mind was keen and her memory clear. During the last few years she spent a great deal of her time piecing quilts and reading. She was the last of the "Den Bleyker Party" who arrived Kalamazoo, October 1, 1850. She saw many changes in this city and had a very interesting way of relating the experiences of the earlier days.

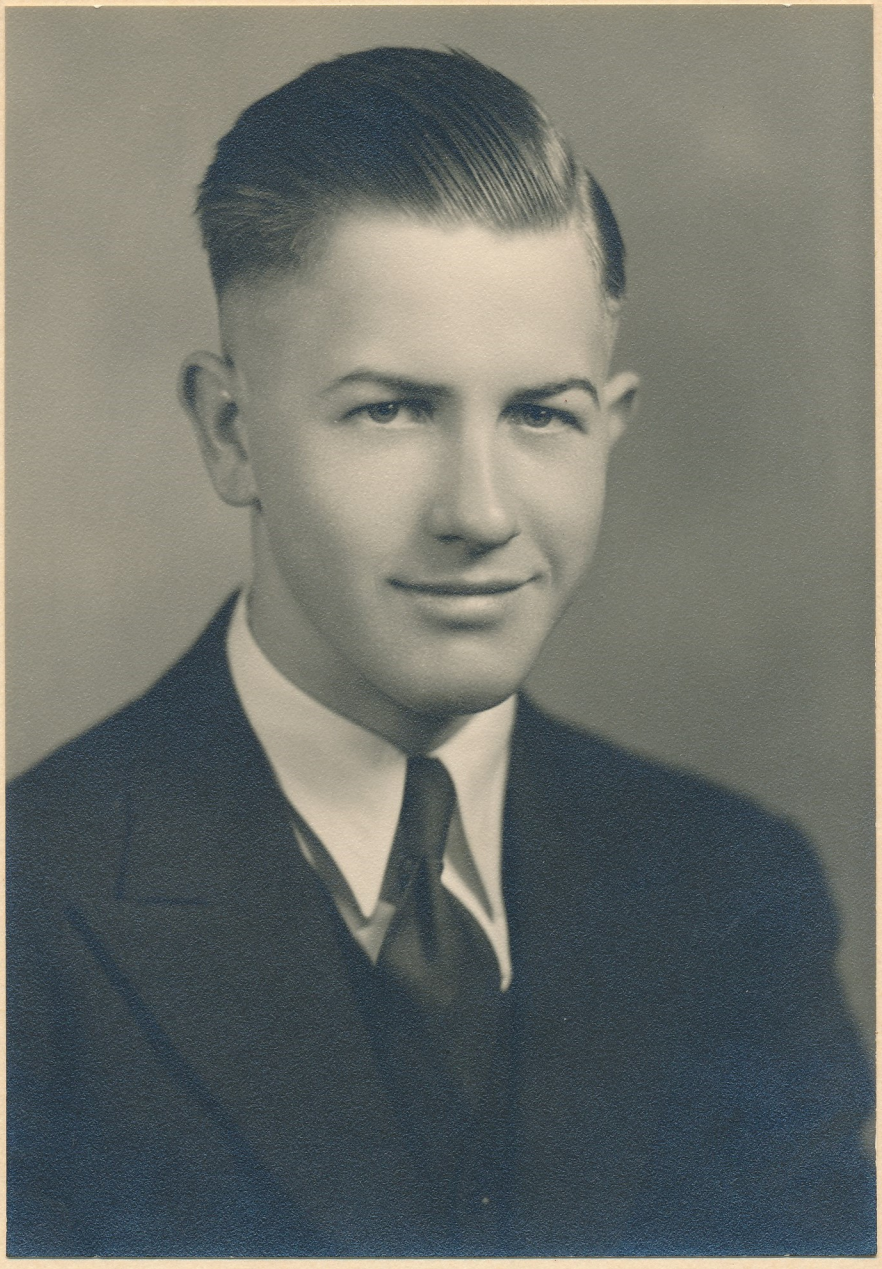
The last two weeks of her life she failed quite rapidly, but her mind remained clear almost to the last.

Death came to Mrs. Bennink at 8 A. M. March 19,

1938. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend J. J. Burggraaff at the Langland Funeral Home March 22, 1938. The Reverend Joshua Hoogenboom of Decatur, Michigan, assisted in the service. Mrs. Bennink had met Mr. Hoogenboom while she was visiting in the east where he was a young man preparing for college. Mr. Hoogenboom enrolled in Hope College and during his time there the friendship continued through occasional visits to Mrs. Bennink.

The bearers at the funeral were her grandsons, Robert Van Peenan, De Witt Trowbridge, Theodore and John Bennink, Montieth Bilkert and Howard Bloem.

Written in 1938



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Clifford Bero

C L I F F O R D A L F R E D B E R O

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Clifford Alfred Bero was born July 30, 1914 in Menominee, Michigan, son of Alice Swanson and John L. Bero.

John L. Bero, the father, was born July 12, 1880 in Bay Settlement, Wisconsin. The mother, Alice Swanson, was born in Sweden October 7, 1886.

Clifford was reared in Menominee until 1928 when the family moved to Kalamazoo, where Clifford graduated from the State High School in 1933, after which he worked for Peter Eckrich and Sons, wholesale sausage manufacturers.

Clifford was much interested in architecture and hoped to take a course in that art in the near future.

Clifford Bero was a member of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo and a member of the Sunday School class taught by Mr. Thomas Peck.

In the evening of March 31st, 1935, Clifford was returning from Lawrence, Michigan, to Kalamazoo, after attending a golden wedding anniversary celebration in Chicago. In the car were his mother and sister and the latter's husband, Richard Marks, with

the last mentioned driving. A drunken truck driver had parked on the highway and the car driven by Richard Marks crashed into it. Mr. and Mrs. Marks and Clifford were instantly killed. The mother, Mrs. John Bero, was seriously injured.

The triple funeral was conducted the following Wednesday at 2 P. M. at The First Methodist Episcopal Church by the pastor the Reverend William C. Perdew.

"I will not doubt, tho sorrows fall like rain,
And troubles swarm like bees about a hive;
I will believe the heights for which I strive
Are only reached through anguish and through pain;
And tho I groan and writhe beneath my crosses,
I yet shall see, through my several losses
The greatest gain."

-Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

I will Be a judge!

Charles W. Best

29

C H A R L E S W I L L I A M B E S T

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Charles William Best was born in Penn Yan in the state of New York December 31, 1860, son of Lydia Cornell and William Best. He attended school in Penn Yan until he became a young man and then he came to Kalamazoo about 1886.

For some time Mr. Best worked as a cabinet maker for a buggy company. About 1907 he entered the employ of the Gibson Company for his longest period of employment and was engaged in making the fine musical instruments produced by that company.

Mr. Best was a Mason and was a Republican in politics. He joined the First Methodist Episcopal Church during the pastorate of the Reverend Levi Masters, D. D., and served as an official member of that church.

September 12, 1889, Charles W. Best married Mae Wallace and they were the parents of:

Lydia, a teacher in the Kalamazoo schools;

Lucille, who married Roy Pittenger and resides in Milford, Michigan;

C. Wallace, who married Olga Nelson and resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Following the death of his first wife, Mr. Best married Mrs. Eulalia Wallace April 4, 1918.

Mr. Best was very fond of his home and family and was devoted to his church. His business was to provide for the pleasure and entertainment of the people by means of the musical instruments which he so skilfully produced and in all his contacts he was a producer of harmony, always in tune with the highest and best in life.

Death came to Mr. Best July 18, 1937. The funeral was conducted by his pastor, the Reverend William C. Perdew, and Riverside cemetery received his tabernacle of clay.

Written February 16, 1938.

36

Anthony Besterveldt

A N T H O N Y B E S T E R V E L T

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Anthony Bestervelt was born in Grand Haven, Michigan, July 4, 1879, son of Lana Booth and Tennis Bestervelt of Holland descent. He had three brothers and five sisters: Cornelius, born in 1860 and died March 1, 1923; William, who died April 29, 1931; Marinus, who resides in Kalamazoo and is the head of the Bestervelt chain of stores; Anna, who married John Verhooks of Grand Haven, Michigan; Minnie, who married William Olivet of Kalamazoo; Katherine, who married Alfred Colvin and resides in Kalamazoo; Nettie, who married Mitchell Linihan and resides in Kalamazoo.

When Anthony was about five years old the family moved to Kalamazoo and he attended school until he was about twelve years of age when he started to work in the grocery with his brother Marinus. About 1909, he started in the grocery and meat business for himself on the corner of Park and Ransom streets. At the end of about one year in that location he moved to the 1100 block on Portage street and did business there for a year or two and then sold the business

and worked for Vander Brook Brothers for a year, after which he again was employed by his brother Marinus as manager of various stores owned by his brother, who at one time owned nine stores. At the time of his death Anthony Bestervelt was manager of store No. 7, on Portage street.

Anthony Bestervelt was a member of the Holland Mutual Aid Society and was also a member of the Holland American Society and of the Second Reformed Church. In politics he was an independent Republican. He was fond of fishing, bowling and base ball.

May 7, 1903, he married Alieda Van Den Berge. They were the parents of the following children: Alieda Leona, born August 15, 1904, married Cornelius Egbert, resides in Battle Creek, Michigan, and is the mother of Elaine Audrey, born January 5, 1930 - Shirley Eloise, born March 9, 1933 - John Anthony, born [illegible]; Nellie Margeorite, born September 12, 1910; Leona Irene, born April 13, 1914; Esther Dorothy, born March 7, 1916; Peter Anthony, born December 27, 1917; Margaret Ruth, born September 5, 1920; Theodore Robert, born January 22, 1924.

Mr. Bestervelt was of a friendly, happy disposition, playful and enjoyed joking. He loved his home and family and was a pal with his children. Death came to him November 19, 1936.

M. J. Bigelow

M E L V I L L E J. B I G E L O W

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Melville J. Bigelow was born March 31, 1844, in Ausable Forks, New York, and received his education at Keesville Academy, a branch of the University of Vermont. He came to Kalamazoo in 1866 where he resided the remainder of his life. His first business venture was to purchase the grocery of O. F. Coleman. He was soon joined by his family from the East. Later he and his brother George were partners in a restaurant in South Burdick Street until 1875, when he and Horace Phelps founded the Phelps and Bigelow Windmill Company, manufacturers of I. X. L. windmills. This concern operated for forty years with Mr. Bigelow as manager. This firm erected the building in North Burdick Street, later occupied by the People's Outfitting Company.

In 1915 Mr. Bigelow assumed the management of the Clark Engine and Boiler Company on behalf of the Kalamazoo National Bank. This position he held for two years and then returned to the bank and was placed in charge of the safety deposit department.

Mr. Bigelow had a part with E. J. Phelps in the organization of the Kalamazoo National Bank in 1885 and was best known for his long association

with that institution. In 1884 he and E. J. Phelps and J. W. Thompson organized the E. J. Phelps and Company, private bankers, and when the Kalamazoo National Bank was organized the following year, Mr. Bigelow became vice-president, which office he held continuously until his resignation in 1929. He was generally recognized as the dean of Kalamazoo bankers, if not of the bankers of Michigan.

He was twice married. His first wife was Elizabeth Darling, who died in 1891. In 1892 he married Miss Isabella G. French, at that time head of the Michigan Female Seminary. Mr. Bigelow was the father of two children, Howard F. Bigelow, a member of the faculty of Western State Teachers College, and Mrs. Anna F. Bigelow Cook of California. He had three sisters, Mrs. Mary Russell and Miss Martha J. Bigelow, and Mrs. Paul DesJardins.

Soon after he came to Kalamazoo in 1866, Mr. Bigelow identified himself with the First Methodist Episcopal Church and for the remainder of his life maintained an active interest in its program and work. He was a member of the Board of Trustees for over forty years and served on the building committees when structures were erected for the East Avenue, Simpson, and Stockbridge Avenue congregations.

He loved the church and gave generously of his strength and means in its service. He was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

Mr. Bigelow died Wednesday evening, May 28, 1930, at the advanced age of 86 years, at his home, 813 West Lovell Street. His funeral was held the following Saturday afternoon at Truesdale's chapel and was buried in Mountain Home Cemetery.

1935

Henry A. Bilkert

H E N R Y A B I L K E R T

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When Kalamazoo was still a small city, going its unhurried, horse and buggy pace, a quiet wedding took place on John street, Kalamazoo, Michigan. The oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bennink became the wife of George Bilkert. The bride was young and fair, the groom grave and thoughtful.

Both of good Dutch stock, what they lacked in goods and chattels they made up for in courage. Blissfully they went out to set up housekeeping on ten dollars a week.

The next year, June 24, 1892, there was born to this couple a son. Grandfather Bennink proudly asserted a namesake. To show his joy at such an honor he walked to town and brought back a baby carriage for the round faced babe.

From that time on Henry was the center of this home. No other child came to share it with him. Upon him was lavished all the devotion and love of his parents' hearts.

The sincere piety of the Bilkert home was an ideal place for the rearing of a child. It was

natural then that Henry early decided to become a minister of the Gospel. It was the fulfillment of his parents' wish.

On completing high school Henry went to Hope College for further study. This meant going away only fifty miles, but it seemed a long way in those days, and to the little family that had known no partings.

College meant much to Henry. His friendships grew and deepened. With well rounded interests he took his part in athletics, debating and social life. The four years passed quickly and in 1914 he was given the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Missionary interest ran high in that student generation. Men like John R. Mott and Sherwood Eddy and Robert Speer went about among the colleges, firing the students with zeal and vision in evangelizing the whole world. To such an ardent soul as Henry Bilkert their influence was electric. He volunteered for foreign service.

His third year in Seminary was saddened by the illness and death of his saintly father. In his last hours, his body racked with pain, he told his son not to let his going divert him from his chosen field. This wish gave courage to both Henry and

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his mother.

The following summer Henry Bilkert and the girl of his choice were quietly married in the home church in Kalamazoo. Anna Monteith had been reared in a Godly Scotch home, and like Henry had offered herself for missionary work. After graduation from Kalamazoo College she had taken a year of special preparation at the Kennedy School of Missions at Hartford, Connecticut.

While young men were being sent to France for war service Henry and Anna Bilkert set sail for their mission field in October, 1917. Visiting Japan, China and India on the way, in a three month journey, they landed at last on the sandy shores of Bahrain, an Arabian Island in the Persian Gulf.

New experiences were in store for the young couple - long hours at the study of Arabic, trips by donkey-back and sail-boat, extreme heat and absence of ordinary comforts in living.

During their first term of five and a half years the Bilkerts lived in two other Arab cities, Amara and Baghdad. In little native houses looking out on the muddy Tigris they made their home. And here two children were born to them, Margaret, September 26, 1919, and Monteith, October 11, 1921.

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In the spring of 1923 they started on their long journey to America. Crossing the Syrian desert by car had just begun; the Bilkerts decided to try it. In a little Ford bulging with blankets, food baskets, oil cans and spare parts they made their way to Allepo. This bit of travel made the remainder of the journey seem like a very ordinary experience, indeed.

The year at home was spent in the Kennedy School of Missions. The privilege of studying Arabic with Duncan B. Macdonald was a rich and abiding joy.

Back in the Arabian Mission the Bilkerts were stationed in Busra, a large metropolis among the date gardens of southern Iraq. Steamers from Bombay, airplanes from England and camels from the desert blended in this old city of Sinbad the Sailor.

Mr. Bilkert was very happy in his work. Teaching Bible in the Boys' school, talking with men in the Bible shops, and giving private lessons to enquirers kept his days full. His gift for making friends made him soon a valued member of the community.

[redacted], twin daughters were born to the Bilkerts and named Virginia and Barbara. As they grew older it was a familiar sight to see them

perched on Mr. Bilkert's shoulders, having a ride about the yard. He loved his children and gave himself devotedly to them.

In January 1929, Charles R. Crane visited Busra. Wishing to see Kuwait, A/IA also, he asked Mr. Bilkert to go with him and act as guide and interpreter.

When half the desert road had been traversed their car was suddenly ambushed by a band of bedouin riders. A stray bullet pierced Mr. Bilkert's spine. Wheeling the car around the driver drove the rest to safety. On January 21, 1929, Mr. Bilkert passed on to his reward.

Many wondered why such a vital personality should have been stricken down in its prime. But those who knew Henry best accepted his last message as the answer ~~That~~ Everything is all right. Tell my wife'.

The large gathering which crowded the Busra chapel was a tribute to Mr. Bilkert's well spent life. Indians, Jews and Arabs followed the funeral train to the war cemetery at the edge of the city. His sudden going TO THE CEMITARY brought to all his friends a quickened sense of the brotherhood that undergirds all our common humanity.

Over his grave is a simple stone inscribed,

H E N R Y B I L K E R T

'An Ambassador of Christ'

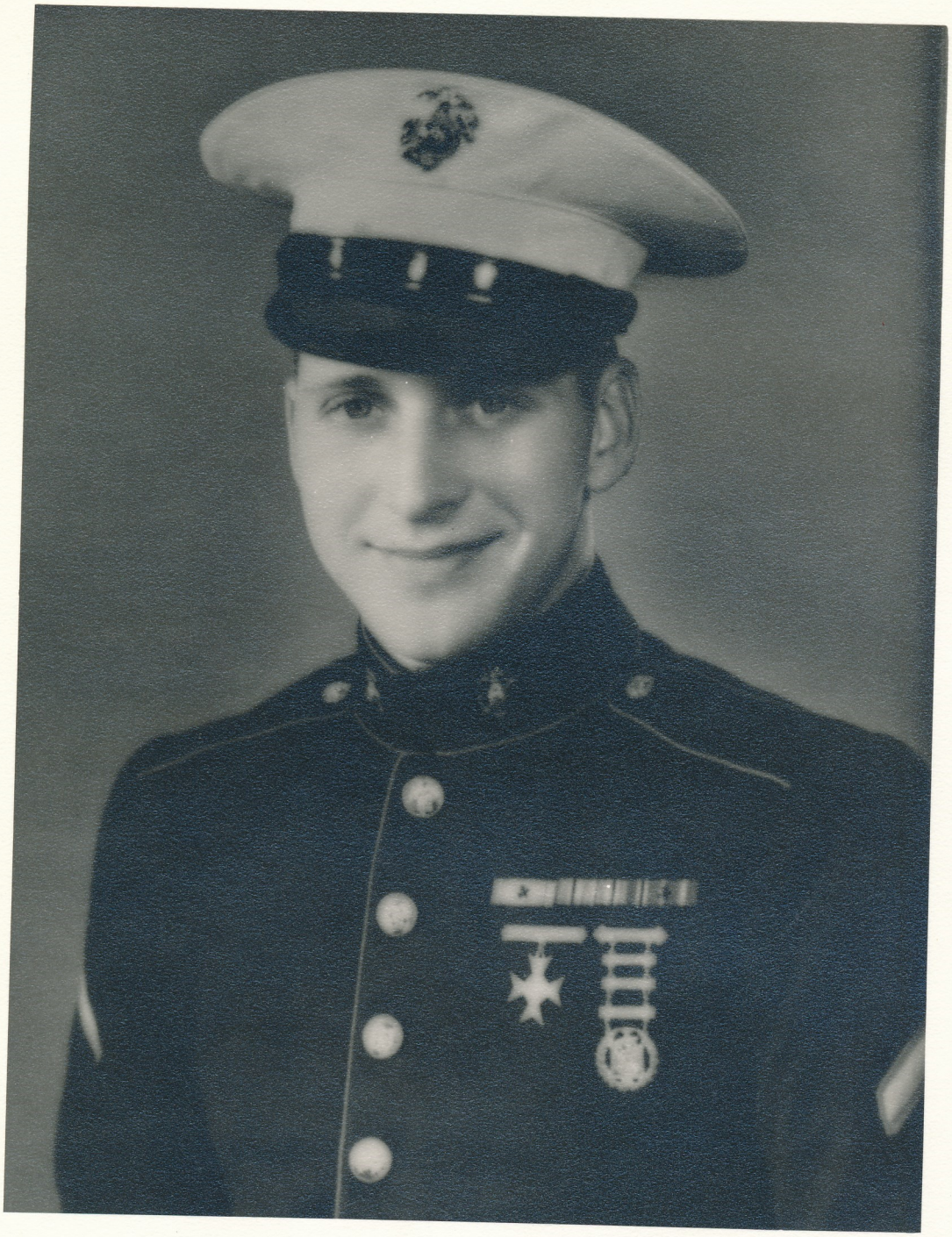
Member of the

Arabian Mission

No higher title could he have won. He was a kinglike servant. FORTUNATELY!

062

Donald Lee Bird



D O N A L D L E E B I R D

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Donald Lee Bird was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, January 14, 1923, the son of George D. Bird, who was born in Bennington, Vermont, June 8, 1880, was a steam-fitter by trade, was married by the Reverend Philip B. Pendleton, Rector of St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church in Schenectady, New York, August 11, 1900, to Mary Jane Bode and they became the parents of Donald Lee.

Mary Jane Bode was born in Lancaster, England, May 14, 1880, the daughter of William and Mary Jane Willmore Bode. The father was English and the mother was Welsh. When Mary Jane came to the United States she made her home in Troy, New York, until she was married, when they began housekeeping in Schenectady, New York.

About 1917, Mr. and Mrs. Bird came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he found employment as a steam-fitter with the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company and remained with that company until his death August 3rd, 1923. After his death Mrs. Bird married William L. Garrison and continued to reside in

DONALD LEE BIRD

1923 - 1944

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Kalamazoo. Donald Lee had the following brothers and sisters:

Roy Felton, residing on route 8, Kalamazoo;

George Earl, who is residing now, in 1944, in Lansing, Michigan;

Jessie Elizabeth, who married Leo Evans and resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan; and

Mary Ethel, who married Charles M. Ross and resides in Kalamazoo.

Donald Lee Bird started attending school at the Woodward Avenue building. Later he went to the Frank Street School and then to the State High School in Kalamazoo. He had reached the last half-year in high school when he enlisted in the Marines July 14, 1941.

Donald took his basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, and became a sea-going Marine. He was assigned to an anti-aircraft battery aboard his ship. From Parris Island he went to Sea College at Norfolk, Virginia. He was then transferred to the United States Steam Ship New York and began overseas convoy duty in the Atlantic fleet. He made thirteen trips across the Atlantic, his convoy duty taking him to Iceland, England and North Africa, visiting Iceland three times and Australia twelve times.

Later he was transferred to the Flagstaff and served as orderly for the Admiral. In September 1943, Donald was transferred to Quantico, Virginia.

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At the time of his death Donald Lee Bird had reached the rank of Corporal.

According to details of the accidental shooting which caused Corporal Bird's death received by members of his family from the commanding officer of the Quantico marine base, Donald and another marine, the best of friends, were relieved from guard duty at 4 A. M. on Sunday, had removed the magazines from their service pistols and in friendly rivalry were attempting to see which could draw his gun the quickest. The accident is believed to have occurred after they had reloaded their weapons. Corporal Bird was shot through the heart and died instantly, January 9, 1944.

At the request of his family his body was escorted to Kalamazoo by his lifelong chum and companion of twenty months foreign service, Sergeant Robert K. Leinbach, an instructor in gunnery at the Quantico base. These youths grew up together in Summit Avenue, Kalamazoo and enlisted in the marine service three months apart.

Following their sea duty in which they had many thrilling and harrowing experiences they were separated and met quite by accident in August 1943 in Detroit when the sergeant was on his way to Kalamazoo with a 15-day-delay-on-orders and Private

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First Class Donald Lee Bird had a ten day leave from his duties as orderly on an admiral's staff. When Pfc. Bird was transferred to the First Guard company at Quantico the two Kalamazoo boys were together again for the third time. Sgt. Leinbach was in Washington on liberty at the time of his chum's fatal accident.

After the family heard the details concerning the accident, they requested that the marine who went before a board of inquiry be absolved from all blame and not punished in any way.

The funeral service was conducted by the Reverend Doctor A. Gordon Fowkes and twelve marines from Western Michigan College of Education acted as pall bearers. Military ritual at the grave in Riverside cemetery was in charge of Joseph A. Adams, commandant of the Marine Corps League, with a firing squad from Fort Custer.

Corporal Bird was a clean, handsome young man, five feet eleven and one-half inches tall and weighing about one hundred eighty pounds, with blonde hair and blue eyes. He was athletic and played on the foot ball team in State High School and enjoyed tennis and swimming.

He also enjoyed music and played the Hawaiian guitar. He was baptized when an infant and was

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confirmed as a member of St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church May 12, 1935.

Donald Lee Bird was another of the many fine boys to enlist in the service of their country and conduct themselves with honor to themselves and to the people whom they protected. Here's to the preservation of their memory as an inspiration to all who may come after them. What they did will ever be the basis of the morale of civilians as well as of those in the armed services. What they protected and preserved other generations must cherish and maintain. We place the name of Corporal Donald Lee Bird on the honor roll with those who loved and served their fellow men.

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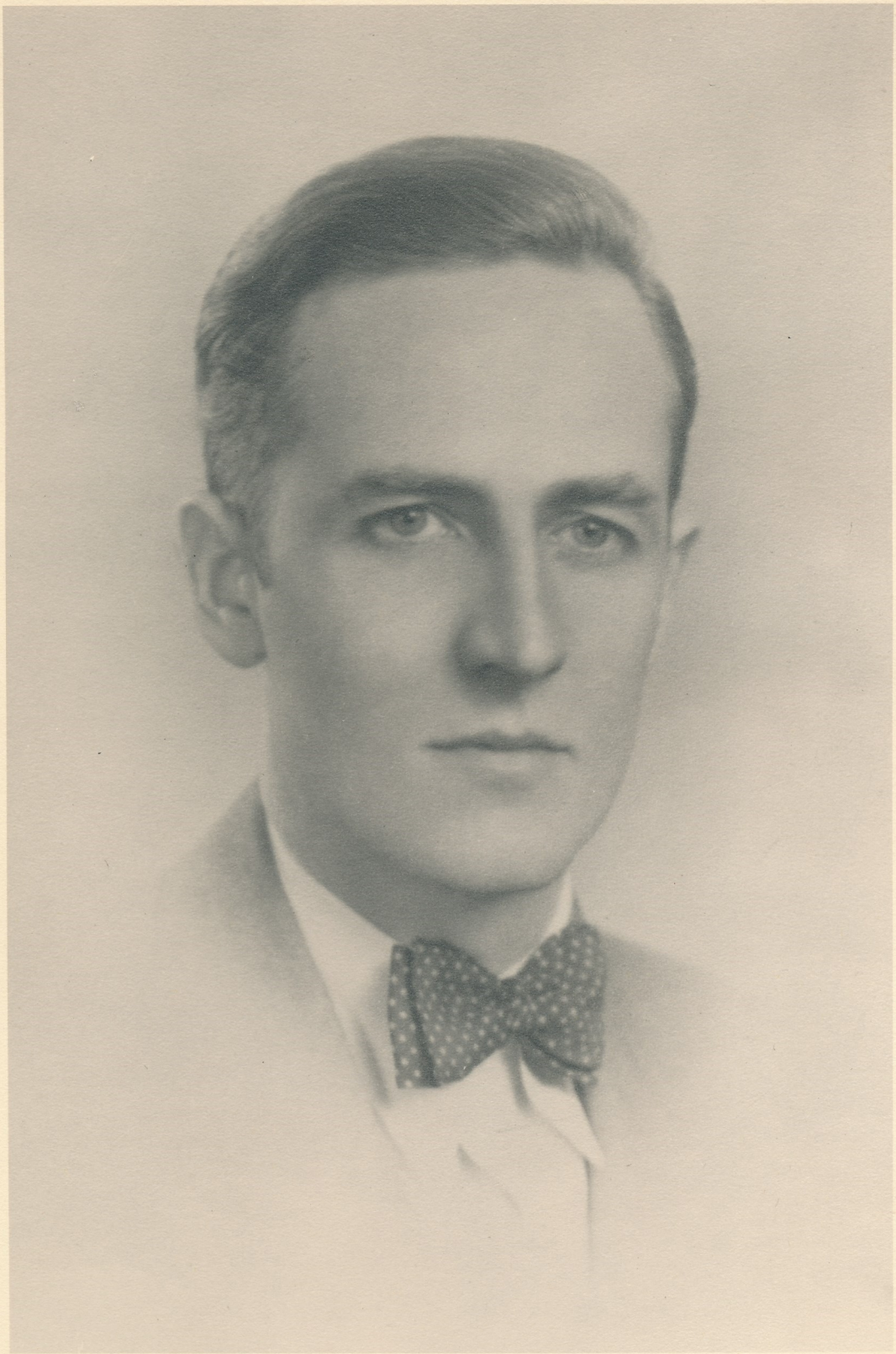
Harold Blaine



H A R O L D A B L A I N E

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Harold A. Blaine was born in Dutton, Michigan, September 2, 1901, son of Clarence Karl and Dora E. Olthouse Blaine. Clarence Karl Blaine's parents were from Massachusetts and were related to James G. Blaine, one time candidate for President of the United States, and the family has a cane which was given to Rix Robinson when Michigan became a state. Dora E. Olthouse Blaine is of Holland descent.

When Harold was three years of age he came with his parents to Kalamazoo, where he received much of his education, being graduated from the high school in 1920 and receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Kalamazoo College in 1924. While in Kalamazoo he worked in the libraries of the city and in William Locker's sporting goods store. In 1925, he received from the University of Chicago the degree of Master of Arts and taught Dramatics and English; in 1926 and 1927 he taught American Literature in Colorado College at Colorado Springs, Colorado; in 1928 he taught the same subject in the University of Texas at Austin, Texas; during the summer of 1928

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he taught American Literature at Our Lady of the Lake Convent School, all the students being "Sisters."

In the fall of 1928, he accepted a position on the faculty of Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and taught courses in American Literature. In 1936, he received from Western Reserve University the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, his dissertation being on the literature of the American frontier, a subject on which he spent years of research and became a recognized authority on the folkways and literature of frontier America.

During 1937, in the summer, Dr. Blaine was a lecturer in American Literature at the University of Debrechen in Hungary and while in that country he gathered much information concerning the Hungarian cowboys.

Dr. Blaine was also an able radio speaker and gave very interesting talks on folk songs and cowboy songs, as well as a series of talks for children consisting of frontier stories.

He was co-author with DeLancy Ferguson and Wilson R. Dumble of "Theme and Variation in the Short Story"; also co-author with Tremaine McDowell, Winfield H. Rogers and John T. Flanagan of "The American Sketchbook."

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Dr. Blaine held the position of assistant professor of English in Western Reserve University and was director of the Committee on Private Research.

In politics, he was an independent Democrat. He was actively interested in welfare work and was very considerate of the poor and aged.

July 22, 1929, Dr. Blaine was married to Ann Rey Kiefer in San Angelo, Texas. She was a child psychologist at the Child Guidance Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio.

As a student in Kalamazoo College, Mr. Blaine was a favorite with members of the faculty, especially with the President, Dr. H. E. Stetson; also with Dr. Ernest Balch and Professor Simpson. While a student in Central High School in Kalamazoo he was a cadet. His recreation was fishing and hunting. In personal appearance he was five feet eight and one-half inches tall and weighed about one hundred thirty-five pounds with blue eyes and medium brown hair. He was the father of Hugh Carter, born [redacted].

Dr. Blaine was genial, an interesting conversationalist and made many friends. Death came to him on Wednesday, June 11, 1941, at his residence 3211

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Euclid Heights Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Funeral services were held the following Friday at ten A. M. at the Amasa Stone Chapel, Fathers Peterson and Rutter of the Episcopal church officiating, Dr. Blaine being an attendant of that church. The pall bearers were colleagues of Dr. Blaine in the English Department of Adelbert College of Western Reserve University, Finley Foster, Arthur F. White, Lyon N. Richardson, W. Powell Jones, Russell A. Griffin and William S. Dix. Burial was in Blaine cemetery, near Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The following sonnet by William Shakespeare was read at the funeral service for Dr. Blaine, in accordance with one of his last requests:

"No longer mourn for me when I am dead
Than you shall hear the surly sullen bell
Give warning to the world that I am fled
From this vile world, with vilest worms
to dwell;
Nay, if you read this line, remember not
The hand that writ it, for I love you so
That I in your sweet thoughts would be forgot
If thinking on you then should make you woe.
O, if, I say, you look upon this verse
When I perhaps compounded am with clay,
Do not so much as my poor name rehearse,
But let your love even with my life decay,
Lest the wise world should look into your moan,
And mock you with me after I am gone.
Shakespeare. Sonnet 71.

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Anna Bogema Bleeker..
1890 - 1989

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Mr. & mrs. Derk G. Bogema

A N N A B O G E M A B L E E K E R

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HER FATHER;

D E R K G A R R E T T B O G E M A

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AND MOTHER;

M I N A F L E T C H E R B O G E M A

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Anna Bogema was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2, 1890, daughter of Mina Fletcher and Derk Garrett Bogema. Her brothers and sisters were: Garrett F., born June 26, 1874, resides in Detroit, Michigan; Ella, born August 9, 1876, married Henry Uldriks and died March 10, 1910; Albert D., born April 8, 1878, married Katherine Humphreys and resides in Kalamazoo; Henry D., born October 1, 1879, married Cora VanDenBerg, who died in February 1932; Tina, born May 30, 1883, married William P. Mulder and resides in California; Jennie, born June 16, 1885, married William P. Slager and resides in Kalamazoo; Fred, born May 17, 1887, married Fannie Born and resides in Kalamazoo; Winnifred, born February 11, 1893, died in infancy; Winnifred, born February 14,

1894, married (1) Herbert Sproul, deceased, (2) Alburn Evans of Detroit; Herbert, born October 30, 1895, married (1) Marie Yeckley, (2) Viola Chapman and resides in Washington, D. C.; five others who died in infancy.

July 7, 1922, Anna Bogema married John G. Bleeker. They are the parents of: John Allen, born April 30, 1924; David Andrew, born July 26, 1926; Joanne Marie, born March 17, 1932.

Mrs. Bleeker is greatly interested in art and her home has many of her paintings on the walls. She has taken six prizes in china painting at the Kalamazoo County Fair and sixteen prizes in oils and waters. She painted the Christ coming through the door in oils and was awarded first prize by the votes of the public at the Kalamazoo Art Institute. This painting was given the title, "Come Unto Me," and was presented to the East Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church in memory of her mother.

Mrs. Bleeker received her training in china painting under Mrs. L. Atwater; in oils under Miss Katherine Leone Wood; in water colors under Miss Nina Ward; designing under Mr. Oliver at the Western State Teachers College; clay modelling under Maurine Montgomery; painting from models under

Sylvester Jerry and portraiture under Cora Bliss Taylor of the Taylor Art School of Saugatuck, Michigan.

DIED: Oct 8 1889 Kalamazoo. Buried, Riverside.

D E R K G A R R E T T B O G E M A

Derk Garrett Bogema was born March 2, 1847 in the Netherlands near Gronigen, son of Trinje Dornbos and Garrett Bogema of Holland descent. The father, Garrett Bogema, died while Derk was very young and at the age of ten Derk was hired to a farmer until he was sixteen when he entered the Netherlands army. After about seven years in the army he was discharged and came to Michigan and worked in a lumber camp near Muskegon.

September 14, 1872, Derk Garrett Bogema married Mina Fletcher, born June 14, 1852, daughter of Ella Palse and Albert Fletcher, died June 28, 1927, survived by a sister, Jennie Betke, 82 years of age and residing on West Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo. Mrs. Bogema was deeply religious and very charitable and belonged to the Methodist Episcopal Church.

For abour one year after they were married, Mr. and Mrs. Bogema resided in Muskegon and then moved to Paw Paw, Michigan, for two and one half years where their first two children were born. When he was about twenty-eight years of age he moved his

family to Kalamazoo and was employed for a time by the Oliver Plow Company. Later he worked many years for the Dewing Lumber Company.

In politics Mr. Bogema was a Republican and in religion he was a staunch Protestant.

Death came to Mr. Bogema September 13, 1936. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Leroy Whitney and burial was in Riverside cemetery.

Written August 13, 1937.

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Mr. & Mrs. Mott J. Blossom - 1936

M O T T J O H N B L O S S O M

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Mott John Blossom is the son of Zachary T. and Hattie Doxey Blossom, and the grandson of Zenith Blossom who was from New York state.

Mr. Blossom's parents lived near Gun Lake, in the vicinity of Blossom School House, having Martin as their nearest post office. It was here that Mott was born September 28, 1876.

When Mott was a small lad, the family moved to Otsego and it was there that the boy attended the public school and was later graduated from the High School.

Following this early training, he attended Parson's Business College about the year 1896.

In his early manhood, Mr. Blossom was employed by the Lull Carriage Company, but always being interested in farming, it was not long before he was acquiring farm property. At the present time- 1936- Mr. Blossom owns a dairy farm near Cooper.

Mr. Blossom was united in marriage on June 21, 1900, to Miss Alice E. Le Duc and the couple resided in Kalamazoo and engaged in the retail millinery business. In 1930, they sold their business, and

Mr. Blossom employed his time looking after a five-apartment house at 821 North South Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan. He has also owned for some time a home at Idlewild, Gull Lake.

Mr. Blossom is an enthusiastic fisherman, an astute business man, a member of the Elks, a genial friend and a loyal neighbor.

His church interest is in the Presbyterian denomination.

Mr. Blossom is the father of two children, Catherine Jeanne, and Mott John, Jr.

Mrs. Blossom passed away on January 27, 1936.

This was written in 1936.

A L I C E E L E D U C

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Alice E. Le Duc, daughter of Joseph E., and Alice Le Duc, was born on a farm near Oshtemo, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, December 4, 1878. She attended school at the little village, and upon finishing her school work, entered the employ of the Capin Millinery concern.

On June 21, 1900, Miss Le Duc was united in marriage to Mr. Mott John Blossom, and the young couple began housekeeping in a home at the corner of Eleanor and North Westnedge Streets, Kalamazoo, Mich. Three years later they moved to a house known as the Dr. Holmes residence, which was on West Michigan. After some time there, they moved to 702 West Lovell street where they resided for twenty years.

Two children were born into this home, Catherine Jeanne, on August 13, 1915, and Mott John Jr. on April 15, 1918.

During most of the years of their married life, the Blossoms were engaged in the millinery business, having high class, up-to-date shops, much patronized by people of wealth and good taste. They sold their business in 1930.

Mrs. Blossom was a member of the Altrusa Club, and was a past president, having held the office of president in 1932 and 1933.

After a long illness, Alice Le Duc Blossom passed away on January 27, 1936, at the residence 821 North South Street. Surviving beside the husband, is the daughter Jeanne, now Mrs. Bonnell Bridge; a son Mott John, Jr.; the mother, Mrs. Alice Le Duc; a sister, Mrs. Fred Poyneer, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; two brothers, De Los Le Duc, Phoenix, Arizona; Wylmer Le Duc, Washington, D. C., and a grandson, David Bridge. The two children and the little grandson reside in Kalamazoo.

Funeral services were held at the Truesdale Chapel, the services being conducted by The Reverend John Wirt Dunning, of the First Presbyterian Church. The burial was in Riverside cemetery.

(The foregoing was written in 1936)

r Blowers

H A R O L D A R T H U R B L O W E R S

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Harold Arthur Blowers was born in Detroit, Michigan, September 11, 1891, son of Frank and Georgia N. Stevens Blowers. He had two sisters, Mrs. J. J. Corin and Mrs. H. N. Baylis, both of Detroit, Michigan; and a brother, Raymond F. Blowers of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Frank Blowers was formerly general manager of the Consumers Power Company and Harold Arthur entered the employ of that company early in life and spent most of his life with them, at first as a draftsman and later as Assistant Superintendent of the Distribution Department.

April 20, 1918, he was married to Florence Antoinette Engen, who was born April 3, 1895, daughter of John and Grace Elizabeth Krymer Engen of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and they became the parents of:(1) Harold Arthur, Jr., a Private in the United States Army; and (2) John Robert, born October 20, 1923, residing in Detroit, Michigan.

Harold Arthur Blowers entered the United States Army at Camp Custer November 21, 1917, was made

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Corporal in Company C, 310th Field Signal Battalion, 85th Division; transferred to Camp Mills; overseas, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne; in Army of Occupation; mustered out at Camp Custer June 19, 1919.

Mr. and Mrs. Blowers began housekeeping on Vine street in Kalamazoo and in 1938 moved to 1834 Oakland drive, where Mrs. Blowers continues to reside.

In politics Mr. Blowers was independent. As a boy he enjoyed base ball and was fond of fishing in later years. In personal appearance he was about five feet six inches tall and weighed about 160 pounds with dark hair and hazel eyes. He took an active interest in civic affairs and made many friends. He was of a quiet nature and liked to be in his home. He was baptized in St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo.

Death came to Mr. Blowers in Bronson Hospital, Kalamazoo, September 12, 1942. Funeral services were conducted by the Reverend A. Gordon Fowkes, rector of St. Luke's Church and interment was in Riverside cemetery. The pallbearers were C. E. Carlton, Abraham Van Antwerp, Austin Travis, Loren Kessler, Thomas Neal, and R. J. Coyne. This was written in 1942.

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Mr. + Mrs. John H. Boekeloo

J O H N H B O E K E L O O

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John H. Boekeloo was born May 23, 1870, in the city of Kalamazoo, son of Cornelia Nabor and Hendrik Boekeloo, of Holland descent. Cornelia Nabor came from the Netherlands with the Van Raalte party and settled in Holland when she was ten years of age. Hendrik Boekeloo served as undersheriff in Kalamazoo county for about twenty years. He was also the first policeman in the city of Kalamazoo.

The surviving brothers and sisters of John H. Boekeloo were: Otto and Jacob Boekeloo of Kalamazoo; Mrs. Rein Stra of Constantine, Michigan, and Mrs. Marie Spencer of Kalamazoo. Two sisters and four brothers are deceased.

John H. Boekeloo attended the schools of Kalamazoo and when a young man he learned the carpenter trade. About 1902 he became a contractor and builder. He built the Holland American Aid Society building at 241 Portage street and many residences.

He was at one time President of the Holland Mutual Aid Society and was also President of the

Holland American Aid Society for a time. In politics he was a Republican and held the office of Township Treasurer for two years. He greatly enjoyed coon-hunting.

Mr. Boekeloo was married twice. His first wife was Grace Bushouse and they were the parents of:

Henrietta, born December 19, 1888, married Bert Rorabacher, and

John, born March 29, 1890, married Grace Wagonmaker and died June 21, 1937.

For his second wife he married Jennie Koets December 29, 1892. They were the parents of:

Peter, born November 25, 1894, died one week later;

Alice Irene, born January 17, 1896, married J. W. Claxton, resides in Kalamazoo;

George, born July 17, 1900, married Frances Caminsky and resides in Kalamazoo;

Peter, born April 5, 1903, died December 11, 1909.

Jennie Koets Boekeloo was the daughter of Alice Vander Gus and Peter Koets from the Netherlands.

John H. Boekeloo died January 6, 1938, after nearly sixty-eight years residence in the city of Kalamazoo and helping to build its many residences and other buildings. He was a good citizen and was highly respected by all who knew him. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend R. D. Wearne and burial was in Riverside cemetery.

Written February 25, 1938.

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Mr. + Mrs. Waldo S. Bogart

M R & M R S

W A L D O S B O G A R T

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Waldo Swift Bogart was born in Northville, Michigan, October 26, 1872, son of Thomas and Abby Bogart. He was prepared for what proved to be an outstanding career in finance in the Holly high school and the Detroit Business College.

September 16, 1899, he was married to Lucia Fisk, who was born September 13, 1877, daughter of Walter and Cornelia Welch Fisk, of English descent, who were residing in Gratiot county, Michigan, at the time of her birth.

Mr. and Mrs. Bogart were married in Alma, Michigan, where they began housekeeping, Mr. Bogart being employed in the Alma Roller Mills. They became the parents of:

Vera Lucille, born in Alma June 30, 1900, married Carl Schultz June 26, 1922, became the mother of Roger Bruce, born January 27, 1929 and Charlene Ann, born [redacted], resides at 1315 Sunnyside Drive, Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Kendall Wade, born March 17, 1905, married Leora Smith and became the father of Rhoda Lee, born June 19, 1935, resides in LaPorte, Indiana; date of marriage December 24, 1926.

Mr. Bogart had a brother, Claude, residing in

Leamington, Ontario. Mrs. Bogart had a sister, Marilla, now deceased, who married Delbert Perry in Alma, Michigan; also a sister Etta, deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Bogart moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1907 and resided on Summit Avenue until about 1914, when they moved to Staples Avenue, where they made their home the remainder of their lives.

Mrs. Bogart was very active at one time in the Rebekah lodge, serving as Noble Grand of the Alma lodge and again later of the Kalamazoo lodge. She united with the Simpson Methodist Church, of which her mother was also a member. For many years she was superintendent of the primary department of the Sunday school and for fifteen years she was president of the Ladies Aid society.

After coming to Kalamazoo, Mr. Bogart was employed by the Taylor Abstract office, the Henderson-Ames Company, was purchasing agent and cost accountant fourteen years for the Kalamazoo Corset Company, and was appointed city treasurer, March 1, 1924, and served in that office until his death.

Revised Collection System

In 1930 he was lauded for revising the system of tax collecting and receipts in the city, which resulted in a new efficiency for the department.

Leamington, Ontario. Mrs. Bogart had a sister, Merilla, now deceased, who married Delbert Perry in Alma, Michigan; also a sister Etta, deceased.

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With the purchase of new billing equipment and re-organization of the staff, Mr. Bogart ended the former delays in the office when long lines of tax payers would wait to be served.

Mr. Bogart had been a member of the Independent Order of Oddfellows lodge since he was twenty-one years of age, and at the time of his death was Grand Treasurer of the Grand Encampment of Michigan. He was the oldest Past Grand Patriarch of the Encampment, and was many years the financial secretary of the Burr Oak lodge of Kalamazoo. He joined the lodge in 1889 in Alma and transferred his membership to the former Kalamazoo Lodge No. 7, later consolidated with the Burr Oak lodge. He was feted by the lodge and Social Rebekahs on June 22, 1935, when he completed a quarter century as secretary.

At that time he was believed to be the oldest subordinate lodge secretary in point of consecutive years of service in the state. He was a 32nd degree Mason, but not especially active in Masonic circles.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bogart united with the Simpson Methodist Church under the pastorate of the Reverend F. M. Taylor. He served as trustee, belonged to the Men's Class in Sunday school and was the treasurer of the class for a long time. He was

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treasurer of the Sunday school for fifteen years and it was said of him, "He got the Sunday school out of debt and kept it out."

In personal appearance he was about five feet eight inches tall and weighed from 185 to 190 pounds, with dark brown hair turning gray and dark brown eyes. Mrs. Bogart had light brown hair and blue eyes.

Death came to Mr. and Mrs. Bogart but two days apart. He died July 12, 1941, and she died the following Monday, July 14, 1941.

Joint memorial services were held at Truesdale chapel Monday, July 14, at four o'clock in the afternoon, being followed by Mr. Bogart's burial in Riverside cemetery. A brief service at the grave in Riverside cemetery was held Wednesday, July 16, at two o'clock in the afternoon, for Mrs. Bogart.

City officials were pallbearers for Mr. Bogart and Church friends for Mrs. Bogart.

The Reverend George A. Osborne, assisted by the Reverend Jacob Juist, officiated. This was written in 1941.

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Death came to Mr. and Mrs. Rogers but two days apart. He died July 13, 1941, and she died the following Monday, July 14, 1941.

Joint memorial services were held at Trueadale chapel Monday, July 14, at four o'clock in the afternoon, being followed by Mr. Rogers's burial in Riverside cemetery. A brief service at the grave in Riverside cemetery was held Wednesday, July 16, at two o'clock in the afternoon, for Mrs. Rogers.

City officials were pallbearers for Mr. Rogers and Church friends for Mrs. Rogers.

The Reverend George A. Osborne, assisted by the Reverend Jacob Imiat, officiated. This was written in 1941.

A. L. Boggs

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A N D R E W L E L A N D B O G G S

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Andrew Leland Boggs was born in Evans City, Pennsylvania, September 13, 1857, the son of Robert Boggs and Mary Jane McCandles, both of whom were born in Pennsylvania. He was educated in the rural school a mile and a half from his home.

For some time he was associated with his father in a general store in Evans City.

He was married to Caroline Pflough, August 22, 1878, and became the father of four children, one son and three daughters, two of the latter still living at this writing. Some time after the death of the mother, Mr. Boggs married Ethel Weyburn, April 2, 1931.

Following the period when he was associated with his father gathering produce, butter, eggs, etc., Mr. Boggs engaged in the oil business doing heavy teaming. He was thus engaged for about ten years. This was in Pennsylvania.

He came to Michigan about the year 1902 and for two years ran a livery business in Battle Creek. In 1904 he came to Kalamazoo and engaged in the moving business and had the first moving van in Kalamazoo. Friends predicted he could not last six months, but

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For some time he was associated with his father in a general store in Bvana City.

He was married to Caroline Pflough, August 28, 1878, and became the father of four children, one son and three daughters, two of the latter still living at this writing. Some time after the death of the mother, Mr. Bogga married Ethel Weyburn, April 2, 1931.

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He came to Michigan about the year 1902 and for two years ran a livery business in Battle Creek. In 1904 he came to Kalamazoo and engaged in the moving business and had the first moving van in Kalamazoo. Friends predicted he could not last six months, but

continued in business for thirty-one years. At the time of this writing he resides at 613 Stockbridge Avenue, Kalamazoo, where he took up his residence when he came to Kalamazoo in 1904.

The residence property has been beautified to such an extent that the following write-up appeared in the Kalamazoo Gazette, dated July 29, 1934.

"One mile from the dust and turmoil of Kalamazoo's business center, within sight of downtown office buildings, Mrs. A. L. Boggs, 613 Stockbridge Avenue, has reclaimed half an acre of barren ground and converted it into an oasis of beauty.

Mrs. Boggs had always wanted a garden, but it was not until three years ago that she began to fulfill her desire. Slowly at first, and then more rapidly the garden developed. There has never been a definite plan for the garden, she explains. It "just grew."

Traveling throughout the United States, Mrs. Boggs has brought many plants and flowers from other parts of the country, including a number of semi-tropical species, rare in this locality. Through her membership in the Kalamazoo chapter of the National Farm and Garden Club she has obtained many new plants and flowers in exchanges with other mem-

bers of the organization. Her rock garden includes specimens from 18 states.

SOME UNUSUAL FLOWERS

Among the recent additions to the garden are five cotton plants which have bloomed, and Mrs. Boggs hopes to see the complete development of the plant into the production of actual cotton. There is a florida cactus plant which survived the bitterly cold weather of last winter and is thriving under the hot summer sun, and a Peruvian daffodil, among other unusual flowers.

In her "roadside garden" along the fence which borders the garden at the rear, Mrs. Boggs has collected the wild flowers which grow along the side of the highway. Under irrigation and cultivation many of the plants have been increased two-thirds their original size. In experimenting with the burgomot, a roadside wild flower, Mrs. Boggs has developed a flame red blossom of brilliant beauty.

The rear section of the garden, which represents two-thirds of the space, was salvaged from a rubbish heap little more than a year ago. The ground was found to be very fertile, and a portion has been utilized in planting of strawberries, tomatoes, asparagus, and other food plants.

NO ESTIMATE OF NUMBER

There can be no accurate estimate of the number of types of flowers and plants included in the unplanned design of the garden. Mrs. Boggs knows that she has more than 50 varieties of roses, and 64 types of iris. She is familiar with hundreds of the flowers in her garden, and can name them immediately. But sometimes she is puzzled. There was the matter of the mysterious black eyed susans which appeared, apparently, out of nowhere. She had no recollection of having planted seeds, and was at a loss to explain the appearance of the flowers along the fence of the garden. But there they are, tall sturdy stems of them now growing along the fences on both sides.

Mrs. Boggs takes great pride in the rose tree which she created herself by grafting an American Beauty rose stem to a June rose. The tree now rises to a height of four feet, crowned by a cluster of leaves and blooms.

Her greatest pleasure lies in watching the development of the garden. Each day a new bloom appears to replace one which has closed and wilted. Today a snow white cotton bloom appears. Tomorrow it will be wilted, but in another corner of the

garden a new flower has opened its delicate petals.

BIRDS WELCOME VISITORS

Birds are welcome visitors, and a pool of fresh water, in the center of which is placed a large bird bath, attracts many flying creatures. There is a humming bird, most timid of all the inhabitants of the trees, which comes daily to the garden to drink syrup from a bottle which hangs above the garden gate.

Neighbors come often to sit under the shade of a giant oak tree, seeking relief from the heat. A stove has been set up, and Mr. and Mrs. Boggs and their guests may enjoy a picnic meal 50 yards from their back door, on the well kept lawn, surrounded by flowers.

Mrs. Boggs has been asked why she does not enter her garden in the frequent contests which are held by national organizations. Her reply is that she has not worked to that end. Her reward for her labors has been the pleasure of creating a thing of natural beauty.

Mr. Boggs has a brother, Russell Hurd, of the firm of Boggs and Buhl, a large department store in North Pittsburgh, the store of its day, employing at one time about fifteen hundred people. This had

grown from a beginning with only four employees when a wheel-barrow was used for making deliveries. This firm was generous to its employees and provided pensions for them when they became aged. *

Andrew L. Boggs died January 31, 1943. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend T. Thomas Wylie, D. D., pastor of the First Baptist Church of Kalamazoo and burial was in Riverside cemetery.

*(The foregoing was written in 1935)

First Moving Van in Kalamazoo

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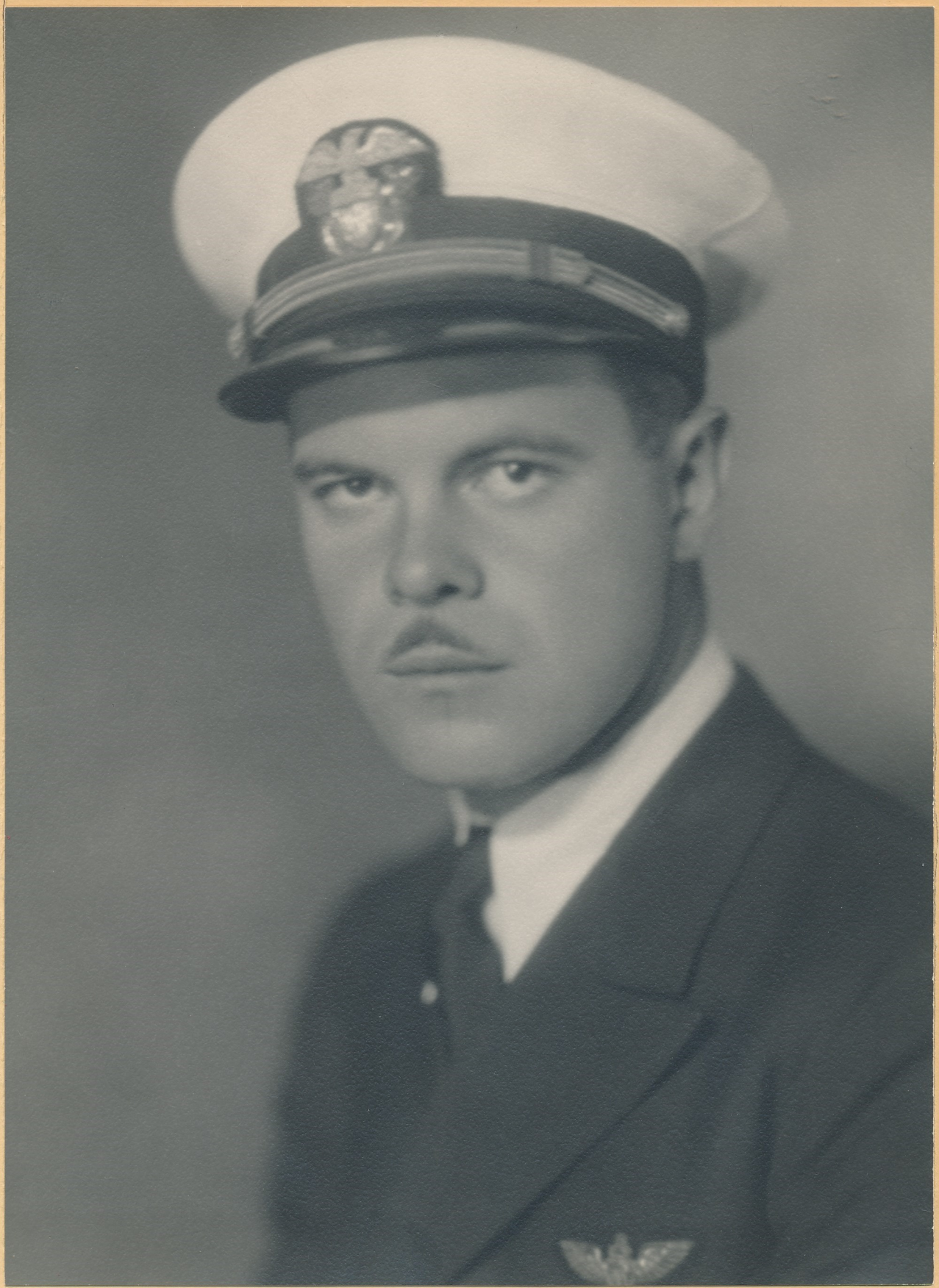

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Frederick Lawrence Bohnet

F R E D E R I C K L A W R E N C E B O H N E T

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Frederick Lawrence Bohnet was born in Northwest Oshtemo July 21, 1903, son of Luella Rolfe and Fred Wright Bohnet of English and German descent. He attended the Hurd school near his boyhood home and Western State Teachers College high school and graduated from Western State Teachers College in 1925. The next year he taught science and mathematics in the Otsego high school. He then spent three years in the University of Michigan in the school of Engineering, working on his Masters degree when he was presented with the opportunity to join the Navy Reserves, which he did.

After a few weeks at the Great Lakes Training Station and at Pensacola, Florida, he went to Santiago in 1929 and was graduated from the course in aviation with the rank of ensign in 1931 and became a member of the Aeronautical Reserves.

Mr. Bohnet started flying in 1928, while a student at the University of Michigan, where he took a ground school course. After he was graduated he returned to college to finish his educational training.

In 1929 he went with the battle fleet on the West Coast, attached to a patrol squadron of flying boats.

Mr. Bohnet told of an humorous incident in squadron torpedo practice which was published in the Kalamazoo Gazette:

> "There were three boats and about twenty torpedo planes attacking them with dummies. While these dummy torpedoes contained no TNT, their mechanism was the same as a real one and cost the government $12,000 each. We were assigned to pick them up after the maneuvers, not only for their value, but because these torpedoes sometimes keep on going and they might hit a small ship and capsize it.
>
> "After several hours searching we located all but two. One of our observers spotted what he thought was one of the missing torps cutting up below us. We chased it for nearly half an hour and when we finally got within grabbing distance, discovered it to be a baby whale spouting around and kicking up in general."

FLYER FOR FORD

After a year with the Navy, Fred returned to Detroit and became test pilot and general flyer for Ford. He flew the tri-motored Fords on freight runs between Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland and Buffalo until 1932, when Ford discontinued aviation activities.

In November he joined TWA as co-pilot. He flew in that capacity five months between Kansas City and Albuquerque, and was advanced to pilot.

In 1933 came the cancellation of mail contracts between the government and TWA and Mr. Bohnet was put

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back as co-pilot. Shortly after he was sent to Newark as pilot.

Fred was not interested in trans-Atlantic flights. Aviation to him was a business, a means of making a living. He felt that both military and air lines pilots can learn much from each other. He said:

> "Naval flyers are well trained, but it is open to discussion whether they are trained in the right phases. When it comes to tactical work, formation flying, bombery, gunnery and dive bombing, fine; but it is my contention you've got to get places in all kinds of weather to do this sort of thing and for that the military pilot should be as good as the air line pilot in instrument flying. In the Navy I got probably twenty hours of flying under the hood, but we could always take off or land blind, because we had an entire bay to do it in. That won't always be the case, however."

He did not go in for sensationalism; said it had no place in the life of a commercial flyer.

> "Make the public forget they are in the air; make them feel as safe in a plane as they are on any means of ground transportation. They really are as safe; its the mental reaction that must be coped with. When the public is brought to the realization that pilots like myself regard this flying game as a legitimate business, a means of livelihood, this will be achieved. They must get to know we pilots are ordinary human beings like themselves, that our lives are as valuable to us and our folks as their life is to them. We aren't heroes, we're just fellows out to earn a living in a fine new field."

The high esteem in which he was held by TWA is evidenced by the fact that he was sent to Seattle by that company to select the instruments for their new

thirty-two passenger plane.

September 26, 1931, Frederick Lawrence Bohnet married Lulu Belle Pederson and they had one son, Gerald Lawrence, born May 19, 1934.

After a vacation in which the family had visited Bermuda for two weeks and had taken trips to Detroit and Seattle, Mr. Bohnet, who had been advanced to chief pilot of the Transcontinental and Western Airlines, was making his first flight when "local icing conditions of unanticipated severity" caused his plane to crash in Pennsylvania Thursday night March 25, 1937, and Mr. Bohnet met his death.

He was a member of the Northwest Oshtemo Methodist Episcopal Church, which he joined when a boy, and in politics was a Republican.

The funeral was conducted by the Reverend John W. Dunning and burial was in the cemetery at Alamo.

Fellow officers of the Naval Reserves air force base at Grosse Ile paid tribute in their own way an hour before the funeral, arriving aloft the city of Kalamazoo in a formation of three Gruman FF ships, circling for the wing dip over the business center, before landing to attend the services.

The following is a copy of a letter which explains itself:

United States Naval Reserve
Aviation Base, Grosse Ile, Mich.

27th of March, 1937.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bohnet,

Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bohnet;-

The officers of the VN Squadron 9 R D 9 and the Base, who, through former association with your late son, Lieutenant F. L. Bohnet, will always retain most pleasant memories of his personality and merits, wish to offer their sincere sympathy in your great loss.

Very sincerely yours,

W. J. Wicks

Lieutenant (JG) A-F. U. S. N.R

Squadron Commander

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Jerome S. Borden

Jerome S. Barden

J E R O M E S. B O R D E N

1 8 8 9 - 1940

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Jerome S. Borden was born in Kalamazoo, April 7, 1889, son of Elizabeth Moerdyk and Eugene E. Borden. The mother was of Holland extraction and the father was born of French ancestry, tracing originally from Bordeaux, France. There were five sons and one daughter in the Borden family: Jerome S., D. Bert, Wellington J., Ernest E., all of Kalamazoo; Stanley J. of Coldwater; and Magdalene A., who married Willis Lynn of Kalamazoo.

Jerome Borden received his education in the public schools of Kalamazoo. His parents had bought a farm five miles east of Kalamazoo when Jerome was about 12 years old, and as a young man he worked with his father on this farm, afterward finding employment at the Kalamazoo State Hospital for a short period of time.

He became the first night ticket agent and dispatcher for the Michigan United Traction Company, Kalamazoo's first interurban electric railway operated between Kalamazoo and Battle Creek. He was employed also by the New York Central Railway Company for about

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three years. Following this, for a number of years he was then employed in the office of the Dewing Lumber Company.

To be chronologically correct, it was about at this period that while singing in the choir at the First Methodist Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo, he met Edna Ruth Linderman, marrying her June 21, 1911. To this marriage were born three children: Olive Louise, born May 3, 1914; Doris Ilene, born May 5, 1916; and Donald Jerome, born May 14, 1918.

It was not until Jerome Borden was 28 years of age that he entered the work for which he was best fitted. By far the biggest portion of his life has been devoted to law enforcement work and he has worked in various capacities along this line. Briefly, it can be summed up as follows:

From 1917 to 1920 - deputy sheriff under Elton R. Eaton as sheriff.

1920 to 1921 - desk sergeant on the Kalamazoo police force.

From 1921 to 1923 - deputy sheriff under Sheriff Fred C. Putnam.

During a part of 1923 and 1924 - Federal Prohibition Agent with headquarters in Detroit.

The following letter bears testimony to Mr. Borden's effective service under the Federal Prohibition Director in Detroit:

April 13, 1924

Mr. Jerome S. Borden
1318 Merrill Street
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Dear Sir:

Your resignation received, which I have accepted without prejudice.

I wish to thank you at this time for your faithful and conscientious service, and the good work accomplished by you while connected with this department. No one in Michigan has worked harder and results prove it. If you are successful and elected sheriff of Kalamazoo County, law enforcement organizations will have a valuable ally in you.

If at any time you should desire again to become connected with the Federal Prohibition Department, I shall be glad to recommend your appointment.

Wishing you success,

(Signed) James R. Davis
Director

In 1925, Jerome Borden was elected on the Republican ticket as sheriff of Kalamazoo County and he was re-elected twice thereafter, the first Sheriff in Kalamazoo County to be elected three successive terms.

The six years from 1925 to 1931, during which he was Sheriff, were hectic days. The country was undergoing a wave of unprecedented prosperity. The 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act were the law of the land. The combination was one which produced the bootlegger, the hi-jacker, the big-time gangster, and a nation-wide wave of crime.

No Sheriff in Kalamazoo County ever was faced with greater responsibility; none ever had more serious crimes committed during his administration, and none ever made a better record in the solution of them -- for during the six years of his incumbency there was no major crime committed in this County which was not solved and the criminal brought to justice.

Early in the spring of 1930, Mr. Borden, together with four of his deputies and two members of the Kalamazoo Police Department, were indicted in Federal Court on a charge of conspiracy to violate the Prohibition law.

The trial was held at Grand Rapids in April and May of that year, and was a long and bitter one, lasting more than two weeks. The principal witnesses against the officers were people whom they had prosecuted and convicted of violating the Prohibition Laws, and Mr. Borden's defense was based on the claim that the whole trial was an attempt to "frame" the officers by those whom they had put out of their illegal business.

At the conclusion of the trial, the jury required only one ballot to find all of the officers "Not Guilty."

After leaving the Sheriff's office, Mr. Borden still devoted a good portion of his time to law enforcement work. He was often called to Detroit for under-cover work, and was special investigator for the Buckley grand jury.

He was one of the organizers, and became the first and thus far the only Secretary and Treasurer of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association. The purpose of this organization is the advancement of crime prevention and detection, and the establishment of a closer cooperation between the county sheriff and all other law enforcement agencies.

He is a member of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, a member of the National Safety Council and the Michigan Safety Council. In the Michigan Safety Council he is serving on the Educational Committee and the Enforcement Committee.

Mr. Borden resides on his farm of 130 acres, nine miles northeast of Kalamazoo and one and one-half miles south of Richland, on Section 27, Richland Township. He is engaged in general farming, specializing in dairying, with forty head of cattle.

He is a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Chapter, belongs to the Moose and the Knights of Pythias.

No biographical sketch which confined itself to cold facts and figures could in any sense give a true picture of Jerome S. Borden, because his outstanding characteristic is his vital and dynamic personality.

A man of boundless energy, of decided views on controversial matters, forward-looking, and inclined to be years ahead of his time in his thinking and ideas; a hard fighter and a square shooter. Jerome Borden is a man of strong likes and dislikes, intensely loyal to his friends; a worthy foeman for that which he opposes; a hater of sham and hypocrisy; a man who naturally makes warm friends and bitter enemies.

Strangely enough, his warmest friends and bitterest enemies very often agree in their estimates of him. Men who for years have opposed him politically have often been heard to say that he was the best Sheriff Kalamazoo County ever had. On the other hand, his best friends will concede that he is generous to a fault -- so much so that he has at times been accused of waste and extravagance. But his honesty, his ability, and his courage are universally conceded.

His position as Secretary of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association has brought him into constant contact with Law Enforcement officials, not only in Michigan but also in a national way, until today probably no man in

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Michigan knows so many officers personally and can call so many of them by their first names as can Jerome Borden. From J. Edgar Hoover, Chief of the "G" men, down to Village Marshals and Town Constables, Jerome Borden is known and loved and his judgment is respected.

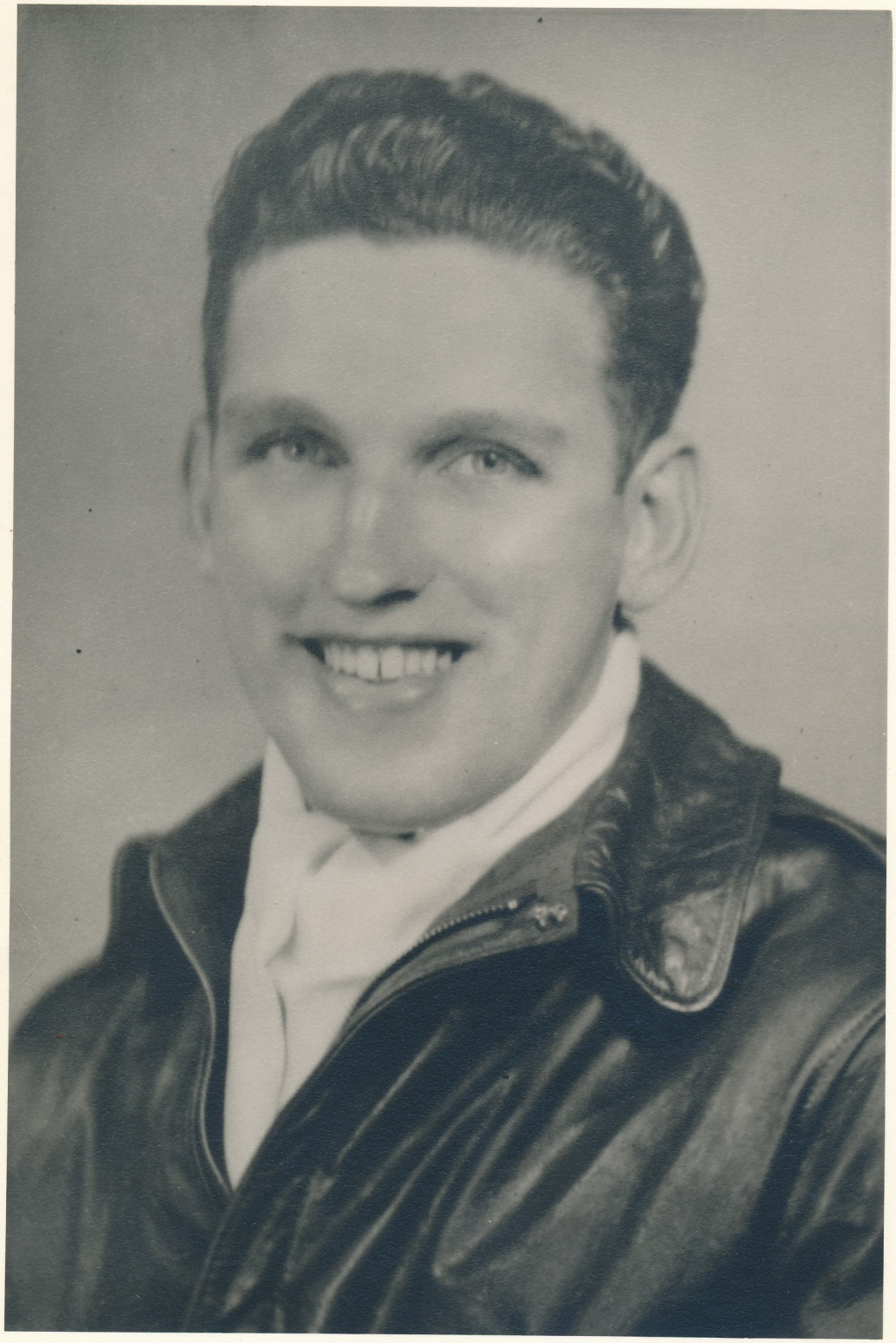
He has been an active and energetic leader in promoting legislation beneficial to law enforcement and the public good. Many things for which he fought in years past have now been accepted and adopted; others, such as universal finger printing, of which he was one of the first advocates, are steadily gaining ground.

At the date this is written Jerome Borden is a comparatively young man, in the prime of life, and with many years of activity ahead of him. But regardless of what the future may hold in store, his record thus far is such that he will have left a lasting monument to his ability and energy, and he will long be remembered as a power for good in Michigan.

This was written December 29, 1936.

DIED: 1940 Richland

Nelson Eugene Borden



N E L S O N E U G E N E B O R D E N

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Corporal Nelson Eugene Borden, Mitchell B-25 engineer-gunner, was lost on July 10, 1945. The bomber on which he served was on a mission over Kyusha island, when about one hundred fifty miles from Okinawa the ship was caught in the propellor wash of the plane immediately ahead of it in formation which resulted in a momentary loss of control. Simultaneously the youth's plane was struck by a third plane following it in formation causing it to burst into flames.

It is believed that the bomb bay caught fire as the plane peeled off in a slow glide becoming steeper until it nosed into the water, exploding on impact.

Four parachutes were seen to open immediately after the plane was hit, but cloud formations prevented further observation.

Planes from the squadron searched for the missing crew members without results. Submarines also failed to find any trace of the missing men. Thereafter Corporal Borden was reported missing in

NELSON EUGENE BORDEN

1924 - 1946

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Thereafter Corporal Borden was reported missing in

action until later when he was officially announced as presumably dead as of July 11, 1946.

Nelson enlisted February 22, 1943, in the Army Air Force and was inducted into the service the following March 1. He was first sent to Camp Grant and then to receive training was transferred to Fort McClellan, Alabama; then to Keesler Field, Mississippi; Western University, Cleveland, Ohio; Sheppard Field, Texas; Buckingham Army Air Field, Fort Myers, Florida; Greenville, South Carolina; and Muroc, California. Following additional training in the Hawaiian Islands, he reached Okinawa in June 1945, having left for overseas January 29, 1945, assigned to duty with the 41st light bomber group of the Seventh United States air force.

Birth and Education

Nelson Eugene Borden was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, December 5, 1924, son of Ernest E. Borden, who was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, August 22, 1891, served four years in the Michigan National Guards and now, in 1946, resides at 1819 Alcott avenue in Kalamazoo.

Nelson's mother was Nellie Smith Borden, who was born in Davenport, Iowa, June 20, 1893. Later her family moved to Jackson, Michigan, and then to Kalamazoo, Michigan, where she was graduated from

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Central High School and was married to Mr. Borden. They also became the parents of:

Robert, who was born February 17, 1917, married Ida Ciampelli and resides in Chicago, Illinois, after having served as a Corporal with a V-mail detachment outside of Paris, France;

Ruth, Robert's twin sister, born February 17, 1917, married Morris Wheeler and lives in Galesburg, Michigan; and

Alta, who was born November 22, 1920, and resides with her parents.

Nelson attended the Washington School in Kalamazoo through the ninth grade, then went to Central High School and was graduated in January 1943. While in high school he worked at the Mercury Machine Shop nights, Saturdays and vacations.

Personal Characteristics

Nelson and his brother and sisters very much enjoyed visiting at the home of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Bert H. Smith, located east of Cooper and north of Parchment, where they enjoyed skiing and coasting.

Nelson made model airplanes and liked to tinker with wood work.

He had a good singing voice and sang in the A Capella Choir while in C entral High School. He also sang in the Young Peoples Choir at the Lane

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Boulevard Evangelical Church.

Nelson was five feet nine inches tall, well built with broad shoulders.

He was a fine, friendly boy, happy in disposition and showing a warm heart toward all.

When his plane went down his regular pilot was in the hospital. Later he made a trip from California to visit Nelson's parents and he spoke of Nelson being very popular with all the men.

Nelson was raised in a Christian home, attended the Lane Boulevard Evangelical Church and Sunday school and appreciated what he heard and lived by the precepts and examples of his parents, teachers and pastor.

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LOOSE WILSON-JONES LEAF

MINUTE BOOK

TO DUPLICATE REFER TO NUMBER

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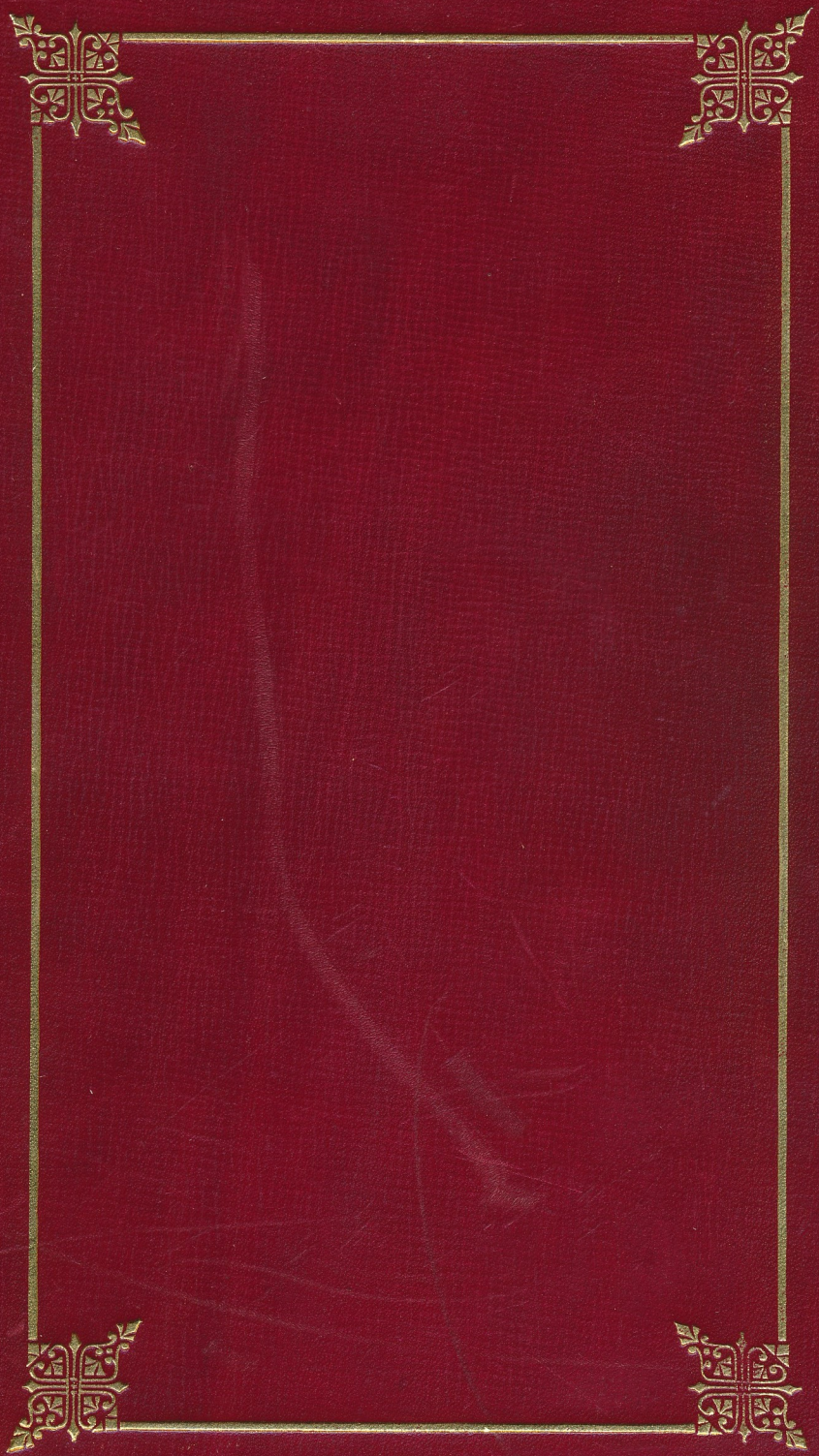

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